



March 16, 2023

Re: HF 2562: APPROPRIATION; GRANTS FOR MEAT PROCESSING TRAINING
AND RETENTION INCENTIVES

To the Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Kate Mudge and I serve as the Business Development Officer at West Central Initiative. West Central Initiative is a community foundation and regional planning organization serving nine counties and a portion of White Earth Nation and it's been my great pleasure to provide financial capital to startup butchers, such as She Said Butcher in Moorhead. WCI would welcome the opportunity to serve as a partner should this funding be provided. In West Central MN, we are seeing the great need for more meat processors. A project we're currently working on is called Growing Grant County: WCI received a grant from the USDA for \$374,000 in late 2022 to purchase a mobile meat processing trailer. Through a partnership between the West Central Area and Ashby School Districts, the Growing Grant County project will provide onsite training to high school students in the art of meat butchering and processing. We support this effort to be a part of the solution as a partner organization.

Sincerely,

Kate Mudge

Kate Mudge
Business Development Officer

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